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**ROSEVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR
PLACER COUNTY WELFARE FRAUD SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGREGOR W. SCOTT announced today that HOSSEIN HABIBIAN, 44, of Roseville, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr., in Sacramento to 6 months confinement at a community correctional center for his role in fraudulently obtaining welfare benefits. HABIBIAN was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$55,104, and to serve a five year term of probation.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Office of Investigations, Placer County Department of Health and Human Services.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, during the period of November 1998 through October 2002, HOSSEIN HABIBIAN and his wife, Zahra Rahimi Habibian, applied for and received welfare assistance (Cash Aid and Food Stamps) in Placer County, California. The Habibians obtained welfare assistance based on false statements that they were both unemployed, with little or no assets or resources. The evidence provided to the district court at the time HOSSEIN HABIBIAN pled guilty on January 23, 2004 included that the Habibians falsely concealed vehicles they owned, falsely set forth their income and debt amounts, and failed to identify bank and savings account balances. The Habibians fraudulently received \$55,104 in assistance.

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